



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(B)2

To: Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D. **Date:** October 19, 2004
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Agricultural
Practices Study
Advisory Board:
Resolution
Supporting Creation
of an Agricultural
Liaison Position
Within County
Government

Attached for your review is a resolution adopted on June 2, 2004, by the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board (Agricultural Board) supporting the creation of an Agricultural Liaison within Miami-Dade County government in an Agricultural Liaison Office within the County Manager's Office. The Agricultural Board has requested that it be consulted in determining a job description, be afforded the ability to review all applicants, and be able to make a recommendation for a hiring decision for the position.

For your information, I have included an Agricultural Liaison position in my FY 2004-2005 proposed budget. Because I view this proposed new position as providing vital outreach to our agricultural community, I am recommending it be included in a new Executive Policy Support office.

Attachments (1)

Assistant County Manager

RESOLUTION NO. AG-04-04

**RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES STUDY ADVISORY
BOARD (AGRICULTURAL BOARD) SUPPORTING THE
CREATION OF AN AGRICULTURAL LIAISON
WITHIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN AN
AGRICULTURAL LIAISON OFFICE STAFFED AS
REQUIRED, AND REQUESTING THAT THE
AGRICULTURAL BOARD BE CONSULTED IN
DETERMINING A JOB DESCRIPTION AND BE
PERMITTED TO REVIEW ALL APPLICANTS FOR
THE POSITION AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION
UPON A HIRING DECISION.**

WHEREAS, Sections 2-931, 2-932 and 2-933 of the Code of Miami-Dade County provides for the creation, composition, terms, purpose and duties of the Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board (APSAB); and

WHEREAS, its purpose as defined in Section 2-931 of the Code, is to conduct a study of the regulation of agricultural practices in Miami-Dade County, review the Agricultural Land Use Study and to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners with regard to such regulations and Agricultural Land Use Study; and

WHEREAS, funding for an Agricultural Liaison position within Miami-Dade County government was recommended by the 1998 Mayor's Economic Summit; and

WHEREAS, creation of an Agricultural Liaison Office within the County Manager's Office has been proposed in the 2004-2005 Miami-Dade County budget; and

WHEREAS, such Agricultural Liaison Office would consist of a Miami-Dade County Agricultural Liaison and appropriate support staff

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Miami-Dade County Agricultural Practices Study Advisory Board supports the creation of an Agricultural Liaison within an Agricultural Liaison Office within the County Manager's Office to be staffed as required with input obtained from the Agricultural Board to determine a job description for the position and

also permitting the Agricultural Board the ability to review all applicants and to make a hiring recommendation for the position.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Reed Olszack, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Ivonne Alexander and, upon being put to a voice vote, the vote was as follows:

Ivonne Alexander-Yes	Bill Losner-Yes
Colleen Boggs- Yes	Cooper McMillan-Absent
Teena Borek-Absent	Reed Olszack-Yes
Harvey Bullis-Yes	Paul Radice-Yes
Martin Dureiko-Yes	Leo Talarico-Yes
Santiago Garcia-Absent	
Ron Weeks, Chair-Yes	

The Chair thereupon declared the resolution adopted this 2nd day of June, 2004. I hereby certify the above information reflects the action of the Board.



Rodion Iwanczuk, Coordinator

Agricultural Liaison Position

Miami Dade County has just completed an Agriculture and Rural Area Study. A team of nationally recognized experts headed by Duany Plater-Zyberk & Co (DPZ) conducted the study. The staff is currently reviewing the final recommendations so that necessary modifications can be made to reflect the comments of the staff and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). One of the Final Recommendations of the consultant report calls for the creation of a "*Designated Rural Communities Coordinator*" as a "*full-time staff position to serve as a representative of and liaison to the agricultural community and to help property owners in the Study Area to realize their goals regarding the long-term disposition of their land*". The 1998 Miami-Dade County Mayor's Economic Summit recommended funding an agricultural liaison position in the County Mayor's Office. CAC recognizes the need for and the urgency of the position, but cautioned that the Consultant's description of the position is too broad for a single position or office to handle. The CAC recommended that the focus of the position should be to keep agriculture as an economically viable industry in Miami-Dade County. Agriculture, with an economic impact of over \$1.07 billion dollars and about 15,000 jobs is an important economic component of the County's fiscal health and its continued stability. The industry is continually evolving due to various external and internal factors. Increased emphasis on free trade and reduced resources to inspect for possible pest infestation from outside are real threats to the economic viability of the industry. Additionally, flooding and governmental regulations, sometimes viewed as excessive or inappropriate by the industry, reduces the competitiveness of Miami-Dade County agriculture. The key issues facing the industry are flooding, local governmental regulations, development pressures and liberalization of trade with neighboring countries. For a constantly evolving industry such as agriculture, it is vitally important to stay "ahead of the curve" and be prepared to "shift gears" when impacted by external forces such as free trade agreements or pest infestation such as canker. However, instead of risking that these factors will negatively impact the industry, the County with the help of the industry needs to look for ways to develop new directions and opportunities for the area. An example could be exploring ways to create more niche markets and better promote existing products.

interests in the multi-agency water management process". Department of Planning & Zoning staff met with the Director to discuss his office mission and organizational structure.

Based on the above background, the Department of Planning & Zoning has developed the following preliminary recommendations for the creation of an Agricultural Liaison position:

1. The major charges of the Liaison should be:
 - a.) To work with the County's existing lobbying team and legislative delegation to ensure that Miami-Dade agricultural issues are included in the County's State and federal lobbying efforts, and to **advocate for Miami-Dade County agricultural interests** at the County, regional, State, national, and international levels. To coordinate the County's effort with that of various farm advocacy groups at all levels. The Miami Dade County Agricultural Land Retention Study prepared recently by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences indicated that Miami-Dade County agriculture is impacted by a number of State, national and international factors that are outside of the County's control, including trade agreements, foreign competition, and the "opening of Cuba"⁷.
 - b.) Moreover, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and water management efforts also have impacts on Miami-Dade agriculture. Flooding is probably the biggest factor that can create an economic devastation of the industry. The responsibilities to address the flooding issues and the effort to develop solutions lie with numerous Federal and

⁷ University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Miami-Dade County Agricultural Land Retention Study, Summary and Recommendations, 2002, Volume 1

3. A successful candidate for the Agricultural Liaison position should have proven ability to work well with local farm groups representing both large and small farms, the community at large, environmental interests and all other relevant advocacy groups. The ability to understand all the divergent issues confronting the South Miami-Dade County agricultural interests and to deal with them in an equitable and professional manner will be the most important qualification of the position. The candidate ideally should have knowledge of how the County works and a strong inter-governmental relations experience in successfully dealing with various agencies at all different levels. In order to attain credibility among the agricultural interests, a professional background in agriculture and agricultural economics should be required.
4. The position should have the status of Special Assistant to the Manager and a suggested pay grade similar to that of the Water Management Manager.